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THOMAS S. VIRSIK

April 29, 2003

Stephen M. Macfarlane
Trial Attorney, US Department of Justice
Environment & Natural Resources Division
501 I Street, Suite 9-700
Sacramento, CA 95814

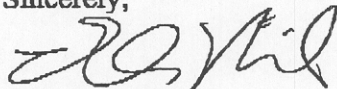
Re: IID v. USA, SD Ca. No. 03 CV 0069

Dear Mr. Macfarlane:

Thank you for returning my call yesterday. As you advised, we noted that the Part 417 notice was posted in today's Federal Register. Irrespective of how much or little IID drags its feet, our landowner clients understand the importance of the Part 417 process and will act accordingly. They do remain concerned, as I mentioned to you, that there appears to be a parallel track to which they are denied access, i.e., the discussions around the QSA in Sacramento or under other political sponsorship. From their perspective, it seems they are invited into one forum and barred from the other -- perhaps more important -- one, which does not seem conducive to any final resolution. As I also mentioned, that is one substantial difference between the IID and our clients (and Imperial Valley landowners in general); IID appears to prefer dramatic conflicts and posturing, while our clients prefer resolution, compromise, and finality. After all of the politics are over, they are convinced that a final and workable solution is impossible without substantial Imperial Valley landowner buy in.

Our clients do appreciate that from the outside, understanding precisely who speaks for whom on what occasion in the Imperial Valley can be daunting. That is one reason our clients have created the website that I mentioned, www.imperialgroup.info. Not to compete with the BOR, but our clients will likely post at least parts of the Part 417 process on their website. If the United States has questions about where our clients stand, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Thomas Virsik